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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15.1) (Kunming (hybrid), 11 - 15 October 2021) - Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 20 December 2021.

**15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15)
(hybrid/Kunming, China, 11-15 October 2021)**

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission -

The first part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) took place in hybrid format, virtually and in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021. CBD COP 15.1 started with a high-level segment that rallied several heads of government and many ministers to express support for biodiversity and, in general, maintaining momentum for the adoption of an ambitious and practical post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), which is to be the framework for biodiversity action by all countries and stakeholders and throughout the UN system. The GBF is to be adopted during the second part of CBD COP 15.

Engagement by the Parties was also reflected in the Kunming Declaration, which was adopted by acclamation. The Declaration commits the Parties to the development, adoption and implementation of an effective GBF, which aims to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030. The Kunming Declaration paves the way for the upcoming global biodiversity negotiations.

The EU was well represented, with Commissioner Sinkevičius and 21 EU ministers strongly advocating an ambitious GBF.

The Presidency was handed over from Egypt to China and interim budgets for 2022 were adopted. There were no other decisions.

China announced the creation of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund with a one-off Chinese contribution of 1.5 billion yuan (approximately 200 million Euro over the period of 10 years) to assist developing countries, inviting other countries to join and contribute. Commissioner Sinkevičius recalled Commission President von der Leyen's commitment, in her State of the Union address in September, to doubling international financing for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries.

There was a large media response around the world, with over 25 000 online articles about the COP, the Kunming Declaration and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund.

Beijing-based diplomats as well as thousands of Chinese participants attended the COP in person in Kunming. Regrettably, there were very limited possibilities for stakeholder representatives to actively participate in the event.

With regards to preparations, Draft One of the GBF was published in July 2021 and an initial discussion took place in a virtual meeting of the CBD Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) from 23 August to 3 September 2021. The EU and its Member States participated in that discussion on the basis of a fully coordinated EU position, which recognised Draft One as a good basis for the negotiations, whilst making several proposals to further strengthen it. While some progress was made during the discussions at the OEWG meeting, wide divergences between the Parties' positions remain.

Due to the omicron variant the Swiss Government canceled hosting of the meetings of the CBD subsidiary bodies and the OEWG that were scheduled for 12 to 28 January 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland, and they were postponed to March 2022. These meetings are to hold substantive negotiations on the GBF and accompanying COP decisions in preparation of the second part of the CBD COP 15. This second part of COP15, scheduled to be held from 25 April to 8 May 2022, is likely to be delayed as well by at least one month. The EU position on the GBF and other CBD COP15 decisions will be established by means of Council Conclusions.